

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicants again thank the Examiner for his advice rendered in the telephonic interviews of April 27, 2006 and May 1, 2006. Claims 1 and 10 have been amended in accordance with the changes discussed in those interviews. Claim 6 has been incorporated into Claim 1. Likewise, Claim 14 has been incorporated into Claim 10. Also, Claims 6 and 14 have been cancelled.

Accordingly, the remaining claims are directed to the embodiments of Fig. 4. Accordingly, the claims directed to Figs. 2 and 3 are withdrawn.

Based on the discussions with the Examiner, the Applicants respectfully suggest that all remaining claims are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion:

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claimed invention as presently presented is patentable over the art of record and that this case is now in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, the Applicants request withdrawal of all pending rejections and request reconsideration of the pending application and prompt passage to issuance. As an aside, the Applicants clarify that any lack of response to any of the issues raised by the Examiner is not an admission by the Applicants as to the accuracy of the Examiner's assertions with respect to such issues. Accordingly, Applicants specifically reserve the right to respond to such issues at a later time during the prosecution of the present application, should such a need arise.

As always, the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the Applicants' representative to discuss any matters pertaining to this case. Should the Examiner wish to contact the undersigned for any reason, the telephone number set out below can be used.

Additionally, if any fees are due in connection with the filing of this Amendment, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct such fees from the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0388 (Order No. NSC1P285).

Respectfully submitted,

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